

THE RUDDER

Sailings of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps



FROM THE DETAILERS

Specialty Leaders vs Detailers

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POMI

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Feb/Mar 2024

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Cover Photo: This month's Specialty in the Spotlight is Plans, Operations, and Medical Intelligence (POMI)! See more on pages 10 and 11.

FROM THE MSC DIRECTOR

Esteemed Colleagues,

Greetings to all the MSCs around the world. It is my pleasure to present the combined February and March edition of "The Rudder." The first quarter of this calendar year has flown so quickly, yet I am impressed and amazed at the achievements of our Corps in such a short time span.

First off, the Culture of Excellence Strategic Goal Group, "The Rudder" newsletter staff, and our BUMED Historian (Mr. Andre Sobocinski) have recently collaborated to execute one of our Surgeon General's Lines of Effort – Recruitment and Retention. To facilitate this, all 31 specialty leaders were

recently asked to provide outstanding stories and photos that represent a way of "building their stories" in hopes of showcasing these achievements and historical facts in "The Rudder" as well as on a public facing Web site that will soon be in development. Special thanks to CAPT Kevin Bailey and CAPT Elizabeth Skorey, POMI specialty leader and assistant specialty leader, respectfully, for your hard work and leadership, and for assisting in making your specialty the first one to be featured in the new "Specialty in the Spotlight" layout format on Pages 10-11.

Congratulations are in order to LCDR Kyleigh Hupfl, a pharmacist at NMRTC Portsmouth, and LT Julia Vandrak, a physician assistant with EMF-Juliet, for being presented with their Military Health System 2023 Allied Health Leadership Excellence awards at the AMSUS, The Society of Federal Health Professionals, annual meeting in National Harbor, Md., last month. On Page 3 you will see these outstanding officers being presented with their awards from our Navy Surgeon General, RADM Darin Via, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez.

Bravo Zulu to CDR Kumar Sandeep for successfully serving at the Manpower and Personnel Specialty Leader over the past few years. Congrats to LCDR Joseph Labarbera for being selected as CDR Sandeep's successor.

You may have recently heard that the release posture for the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders is now two to four months from PSC detachment dates. Detailers and Specialty Leaders play a key role in finalizing your next duty station. As such, please take a look at the From the Detailers article that highlights the key differences between these detailer and placement officer roles. Pacific Partnership



(continued on next page)

24-1 completed its 19th iteration in January 2024, wrapping up mission stops in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, the Republic of Palau, and two stops in the Federated States of Micronesia. In this edition, we will highlight some of the host nation outreach efforts executed by our Navy Environmental Health Officers, Optometrists, and Entomologists.

Over the past few Rudder editions, we have paid tribute to the memory of our fellow Medical Service Officers who have recently passed to include CAPT (Ret.) Valmori "Val" Castillo and LT (Ret.) Joshua Denim Beeler. In this issue, we remember CAPT (Ret.) Trevor Jones, a microbiologist who served as the commanding officer of NAMRU-2 before retiring in 2011 from active duty service.

We also remember the late CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer, a Medical Service Corps officer with 22 years of medical, operational, and administrative experience. Prior to her passing away in 2017 from short but devastating battle with cancer, CAPT Ringer led the Continuous Process Improvement Office at Navy Medicine West which is now known as Naval Medical Forces Pacific (NMFP). Last month NMFP announced the winners of the CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer Memorial Award for excellence in process improvement. Congratulations to LT Megan Copfer, LT Cameron Dutt, and LT Ara Gutierrez for being recognized as this year's award recipients.

I am grateful to each and every one of you and your families for the time and effort you put forward to advance Navy Medicine's mission. Onward. Forward.

*With respect
and admiration! M. Case*

M. CASE

Rear Admiral, Medical Service Corps

United States Navy

Director, Medical Service Corps

MHS ALLIED HEALTH LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Senior Provider:
LCDR Kyleigh Hupfl



Junior Provider:
LT Julia Vandrak

National Harbor, Md. Pictured above: LCDR Kyleigh Hupfl (left), Pharmacy, and LT Julia Vandrak (right), Physician Assistant, were presented with their respective senior provider and junior provider Military Health System 2023 Allied Health Leadership Excellence Awards by Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and RADM Darin Via, U.S. Navy surgeon general, on 15 February 2024. (Photo credit: Mr. Robbie Hammer, Defense Health Agency)

CORPS CHIEF'S OFFICE

3130 SPECIALTY LEADER UPDATE

**Outgoing Manpower Specialty Leader**

CDR Sandeep Kumar

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Email: sandeep.kumar2.mil@us.navy.mil

Thank you, CDR Kumar Sandeep, for serving diligently as the Manpower and Personnel Specialty Leader. We commend you for your commitment to our mission. Your contributions to the community and Navy Medicine are greatly appreciated!

LCDR Joseph F. Labarbera is the new Manpower and Personnel Specialty Leader. He looks forward to working closely with the all officers in this specialty and helping them navigate through their careers by sharing opportunities for career progression and professional development. Given that Manpower officers fill key positions within the Department of the Navy and are instrumental in the assessment of development of operational and non-operational requirements, LCDR Labarbera said that this specialty will play a pivotal role in Navy Medicine's Campaign Plan.

**Incoming Manpower Specialty Leader**

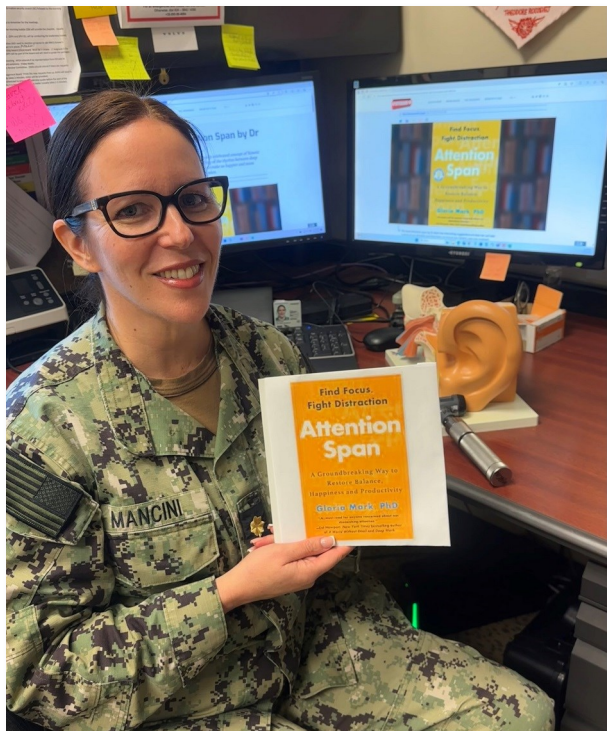
LCDR Joseph F. Labarbera

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THE CORPS CHIEF'S BOOK CLUB

"Attention Span" by Dr. Gloria Mark



Recommended by: LCDR Jolene Mancini, Occupational Audiology, USNMRTC Sigonella

Summary: At first glance, this would not be an obvious choice for our book club selection, but I feel that the challenges addressed are universal and increasingly relevant in our roles as leaders. I am recommending the book, "Attention Span," by Dr. Gloria Mark to all MSCs interested in understanding an evidence-based approach on how to maximize our focus and minimize distractions. This book was released last year and details research that explains the modern issue of increased demand for our attention and the myriad of distractions we face. Our digital devices offer instant convenience, but the constant use of technology is altering our brains in ways that reduce our ability to focus. I found that the book validated my frustration with constant interruptions and difficulty regaining focus. Our cognitive resources are limited! This book offers insight on how to protect yourself from distraction and how to apply strategies to increase your productivity. I listened to the audio version and quickly realized that the information presented would be beneficial for MSC leaders at every level.

MSC Book Club

WHO: All MSCs

WHAT: An opportunity to share a book that you believe other MSCs may benefit from reading.

WHEN: Accepted on a rolling basis.

HOW: Email your information, a summary of the book in 250 words or less, and a photo of the book.

SUBMISSIONS: Email LCDR Nicole Plazio at nicole.plazio.mil@health.mil

THE ROLE OF THE SPECIALTY LEADER AND DETAILER IN OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

While Specialty Leaders and Detailers work very closely together, they have separate and distinct responsibilities and perspectives. Specialty Leaders report to the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) via their Corps Chief. They serve as the Surgeon General's specialty subject matter experts (SME), and advocate for and answer inquiries regarding their specialty. In contrast, Detailers work for Navy Personnel Command (PERS), which is a line command. There are overarching PERS policies that dictate detailing processes and decisions. Policies establish tour lengths, assignment fill priority, time on station requirements, retirement and resignation processes, exceptional family member program, etc.

Role of the Specialty Leader

Specialty Leaders serve as a liaison between constituents, detailers, BUMED, and their specialty. They **make recommendations** only, they **DO NOT DETAIL**. They make recommendations regarding: individual augmentee deployments, cross-level TAD support, career path and progression, matching required skillset for specific billets, and other duties as outlined in BUMEDINST 5420.12F. As such, they provide insight and advice to their officers and the detailer regarding officers' career management and appropriateness for assignments.

Role of the Detailer

The Detailer's role is to be the officer's advocate. They provide career advancement and service record management advice, perform record reviews, and negotiate orders. Detailers have visibility of an officer's record, Exceptional Family Member Program (EMFP) status, Physical Fitness Assess-

ment (PFA) information, and can add additional qualification designators (AQDs). Detailers **DETAIL**. Detailers coordinate with the officer and Specialty Leader to balance officer professional progression and desires with the needs of the Navy. Detailers are an important part of extension requests, DUINS support, and PCS orders. They ensure compliance with PERS policies.

Take away

Detailers and Specialty Leaders work together to ensure that both the community and the officer's career needs are met. Knowledge of Specialty Leader and Detailer roles improves officers' understanding of Navy career management. Collaboration between the Officer, Specialty Leader, and Detailer is important to ensure active talent, career, and record management. This ensures that each officer has the opportunity to reach their full professional and leadership potential. Officers should communicate with senior mentors, their detailer, and specialty leader throughout their careers. At a minimum, officers should contact the specialty leader and detailer 12 months ahead of projected rotation dates (PRD) to discuss short and long-term goals, to request an extension, to discuss future desired duty stations, and to convey the intent to separate or to retire. Pertinent issues such as collocation and unique family circumstances, if applicable, should also be shared if it will affect officer's assignability.



RESERVE UPDATE

MOBILIZATION OF MEDICAL SUPPORT



Williamsburg, Va. NR Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command (NR NMRLC) unit members, along with 4th Medical Battalion and 4th MEDLOG, came together to train in mobilizing medical support from 29 October to 9 November 2023. Members practiced deploying a 3-in-1 Expandable Hard-Side Shelter, a Base-X Tent, and an Air-Supported TEMPER tent, training to the Navy's Role III Expeditionary Medicine (EXMED) platform. The training evolutions also provided an opportunity to focus on subspecialty training for Medical Logistics Officers, Seabees, and Navy Corpsmen. Pictured above (L-R): LCDR Stephen Palatucci, HCA; LCDR Neelam Panchal, HCA; CAPT Jeff Dial, HCA; LCDR Andrew Gwost, HCA; and LCDR Amy Brown, POMI.



THE NAVY'S NEW HEARING PROTECTION

By: LCDR Kyle Shepard, MSC, USN, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division

Noise-induced hearing damage continues to be the leading operational injury and accounts for the top two military disabilities (No. 1 is tinnitus and No. 2 is hearing loss) reported yearly. Hazardous noise remains prevalent in military settings even after engineering and administrative controls, which means hazard mitigation often comes down to hearing protection being worn. In particular, custom hearing protection produces a more reliable fit when compared to foam or preformed plastic earplugs due to the ease of use, insertion, and personalized fit. These plugs also can be used as communication earplugs where a consistent and deep fit is crucial for adequate communication capability over time.

The process for making custom earplugs has traditionally been quite difficult. Legacy methods involve injecting a silicone-like material into the ear, letting it solidify over 5-to-10 minutes before being removed, and mailing the physical impression to a manufacturer where it is then scanned, printed, and mailed back to the user. This entire process can take anywhere from 2-to-16 weeks, is fraught with logistical issues, and carries risk of error or injury during the impression without specialized training and regular practice—sometimes requiring a repeat of the entire process due to damages during shipping. Further complicating this practice, in 2021, aerospace physiologists could no longer offer this service, creating a barrier to access.

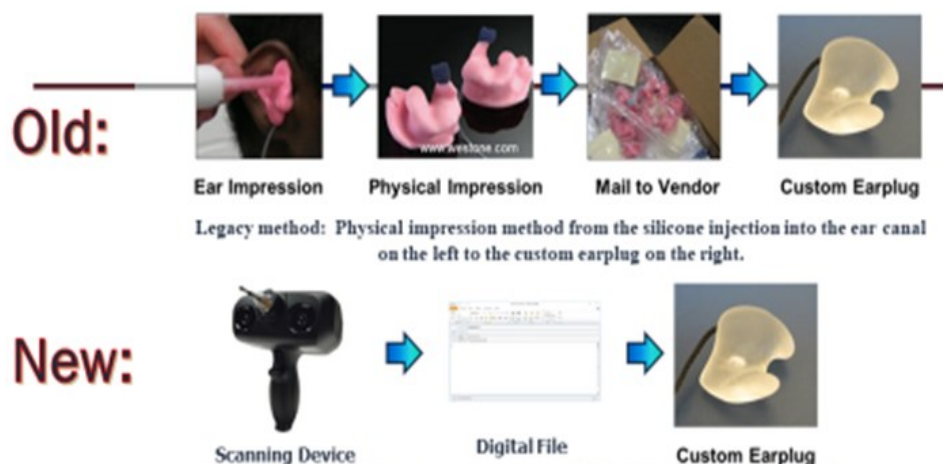
For the past eight years, researchers in the Auditory Performance Lab at the Naval Air Warfare Center Air-



Patuxent River, Md. Pictured above: A United Sciences eFit digital ear scanner gets tested by a scientist at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Auditory Performance Lab. (U.S. Navy photo)

craft Division (NAWCAD) have been investigating methods and capabilities to develop on-site/remote earplug manufacturing to a deployable state. Technology capable of digitally scanning the ear canal has been identified and proven to be a suitable alternative to the physical impression process. These digital scans can increase access, reduce risk, improve reliability, and save time logistically; however, it still requires an independent manufacturer to create the custom earplug from the 3D scan. NAWCAD has analyzed current 3D printing operations across industry and the military. It found that the Navy's dentistry community is currently using 3D printers to create products for their patients. Furthermore, these printers have also already received network approval, and technicians have been trained in

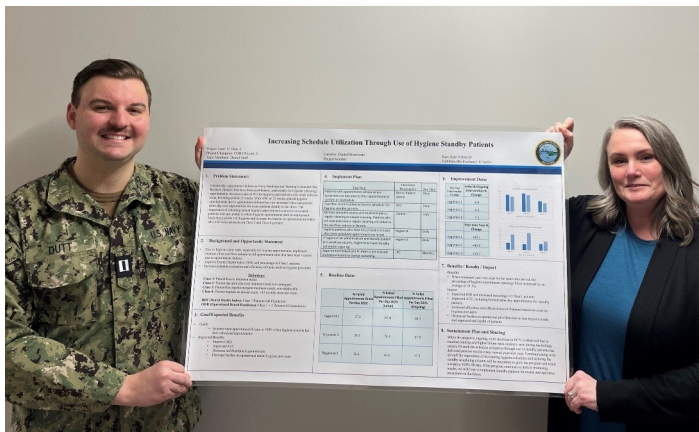
their use and maintenance. If data demonstrates earplugs created from these printers are as effective as other proven methods, this will offer a pathway to incorporate 3D printing of custom earplugs at commands that already have equipment, processes, and personnel supporting this innovative solution.



AWARDS

CAPT CHERYL R. RINGER MEMORIAL AWARD

By: Ms. Regena Kowitz, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery & Defense Health Network Pacific Rim



Pictured above (L-R): The recipients of the 2024 CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer Memorial Award for excellence in process improvement which is sponsored by Naval Medical Forces Pacific are LT Megan Copfer, Physician Assistant; LT Cameron Dutt, Dentistry; and LT Ara Gutierrez, Medical Lab Sciences.

Naval Medical Forces Pacific (NMFP) announced the winners of the CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer Memorial Award, an annual recognition of excellence in process improvement on 22 February 2024 in San Diego, Calif.

The award, established in 2018, honors individuals who exemplify leadership, professionalism, and dedication to enhancing health care services through innovative process improvements.

"I am immensely proud of the awardees for their achievements and dedication to enhancing the health and readiness of our military community through continuous process improvement," said RDML Guido Valdes, NMFP Commander. "Their projects not only reflect a deep commitment to excellence, but also underscore the importance of embracing opportunities for growth and improvement. LT Copfer, LT Dutt, and LT Gutierrez exemplify what it means to lead through innovation."

Leading the 2024 accolades, LT Megan Copfer, a Physician Assistant from Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Lemoore, received first place for her dual initiatives aimed at transforming patient intake procedures and clinical pharmacy operations. Her project, "Improving Access to Care Through Improved Patient Intake," successfully streamlined the intake process, resulting in a 32% reduction in completion time and significantly improved data accuracy, saving the clinic's team 180 minutes of work per week. This resulted in providers having more face-to-face time with their patients. Additionally, her "Clinical Pharmacy Overhaul Program" integrated a clinical pharmacist into the care team, boosting the monthly appointment rate and achieving a cost avoidance of over \$130,000 in just six months.

LT Cameron Dutt, a dentist at NMRTC Oak Harbor, was named Runner-Up for his innovative approach to enhancing operational readiness through improved dental class

ratings.

LT Ara Gutierrez, a Lab Officer at NMRTC Yokosuka, received an Honorable Mention for her work in reducing laboratory testing times for newborn screenings and semen analysis. Her efforts led to a reduction in the average turnaround time for newborn screening tests at Navy Medicine and Training Unit (NMRTU) Sasebo from 39 days to 26 days while the average turnaround time for NMRTU Iwakuni was reduced from 46 days to 19 days. By collecting patient workload data for semen analysis and making the testing available in house, she was able to reduce the average cycle time from 47 days to less than one day. LT Gutierrez's initiatives have set new standards for efficiency across Navy Medicine.

The CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer Memorial Award was inspired by the late CAPT Ringer, whose 22-year career was marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence in process improvement. This award aims to inspire NMFP personnel to embrace innovation and continuous improvement in all facets of healthcare delivery. These winners exemplify the Navy's commitment to excellence and innovation.



Pictured left: The late CAPT Cheryl R. Ringer, who passed away in 2017 and for whom the process improvement award is named, is seen in an archival photo from when she assumed the rank of Navy Lieutenant Commander.

SPECIALTY SPOTLIGHT



FACT FILE

Plans, Operations, and Medical Intelligence (POMI)



- HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION (HCA) SUBSPECIALTY
- SIZE: 171 AD BILLETS
- SPECIALTY LEADER (SL) /ASST. SPECIALTY LEADER(ASL):
 - CAPT Kevin Bailey (SL)
 - CAPT Elizabeth Skorey (ASL)

- CORE MISSION:
 - Coordinate medical support at the tactical, operational, strategic, and combined headquarters, as well as Navy Medicine Department activities.
 - The POMI community is focused on planning and executing operational medical support to the warfighting mission.

- WHERE DO POMI SERVE?
 - BSD-18:** BUMED/ Navy Medical Regional Commands, NMFSC/MTFs/NMRTCs/NMRTUs/FDPMUs/NEPMUs/EMFs/EMUs/Training and Education Commands
 - BLUESIDE:** Navy Component Commands, Numbered Fleets, Task Forces, Fleet TYCOMs, Navy Special Warfare, Hospital Ships
 - GREENSIDE:** Marine Component Commands, Marine Corps Special Warfare, MEFs, MEUs, MLGs, Wings, Divisions, Medical/Dental Battalions
 - JOINT:** Defense Health Agency (DHA)

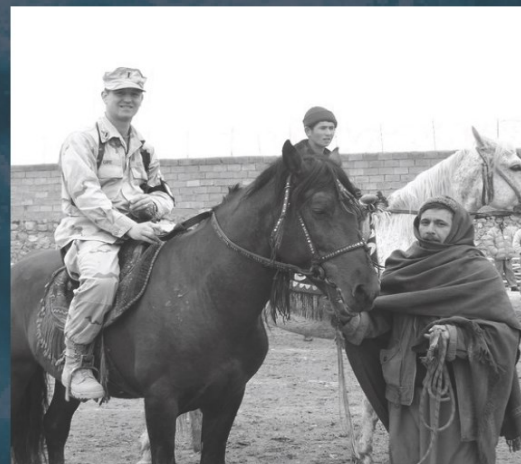
*Photo captions are available on page 23 of this edition.

HISTORY



Plans, Operations, and Medical Intelligence (POMI)

- The history of medical operational planners begins in the early **twentieth century**.
- It is difficult to differentiate the roles of **medical material logisticians and medical operational planners** before the 1970s.
- The need for Navy POMIs was outlined in **The Report on Medical Readiness in the European Command**, April 18, 1984.
- In **November 1989**, the POMI subspecialty was approved for the Navy Medical Service Corps.
- The first **90 POMIs** were selected in 1990 and assigned to hospitals, operating forces, the fleet, major commands and headquarters staff.



HRO SPOTLIGHT

PLANS, OPERATIONS, & MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE: NAVY MEDICINE OPERATIONAL DESIGN TASK GROUP

By: LCDR Amy Welkie, POMI, for the MSC High Reliability Organizations (HRO) Strategic Goal Group



Falls Church, Va. Pictured left: The contributions and efforts made by LCDR Amy Welkie, POMI, as they relate to the Navy Medicine Operational Design Task Group (NMOD TG), have facilitated the implementation of key processes across the Navy Medicine Enterprise that enabled the organization's resilience at every level

Redesigning the organizational construct of Navy Medicine to support the new Naval concepts of Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO) and Expeditionary Advance Base Operations, LCDR Amy Welkie designed and implemented High Reliability protocols to ensure the execution of the vision of the Navy Surgeon General and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

Her attention to detail and process-oriented approach reached across every echelon of Navy Medicine to identify appropriate timelines, interdependencies, and barriers. She worked with the Office of Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, the U.S. Marine Corps, and each Echelon 2 and 3 commands to develop an accessible and comprehensive database to track progress across nine lines of effort for the entire enterprise. She also developed a leadership dashboard briefed weekly to the Navy Surgeon General to track the Navy Medicine Campaign Order, the Navy Medicine

Campaign Plan, and required timeframes outlined by the CNO.

Sensitivity to Operations

LCDR Welkie met weekly with each office of primary responsibility and office of coordinating responsibility to track progress for implementation of the campaign order. In this process, she identified barriers as well as interdependencies, thus identifying needed coordination and/or leadership intervention or guidance. When staffs became overwhelmed, she would adjust as possible while still meeting the mission.

Commitment to Resilience

Through LCDR Welkie's work on the Navy Medicine Operational Design Task Group (NMOD TG), her efforts implemented processes across the Navy Medicine Enterprise that enabled the organization's resilience at every level. One example of this is the implementation of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan for Navy Medicine. This instruction set a policy that requires training cycles nested within the Fleet and further solidifies resilience of our forces through the subsequent implementation of the Fleet Response Training Plan at each of the medical TYCOMS.

Deference to Expertise

LCDR Welkie not only worked seamlessly across all ranks in the implementation of the campaign order, but also identified subject matter expertise in all areas. From manpower fiscal to warfare development command expertise, LCDR Welkie created an inclusive and well-diversified pool of highly trained professionals to fully address and forecast requirements identified in the order and by the Navy Surgeon General.



Falls Church, Va. Pictured above (L-R): CAPT Kathryn Barnes (center right), Entomology/MSC Career Planner, is joined with several POMI officers who are assigned to BUMED Headquarters to include LCDR Afam Isagba, BUMED Future Operations (FOPS); LCDR Amy Welkie, BUMED Current Operations (COPS); LCDR Michael Chang, BUMED COPS; CAPT Wil Morales, BUMED N3/N5 Director; LT Corey Smith, Flag Aide to the Navy Surgeon General; CDR Tony Skrypek, BUMED-N3B; and LCDR Prima Baines, BUMED-N1R.

Respect for People

During the transition to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and multiple medical HQ transformation efforts, many people experienced change fatigue. The process driven approach through NMOD and the campaign order allowed a common picture and objective to be understood and socialized equitably. The professional and kind manner displayed with unparalleled consistency made this significant shift not only palatable, but also brought about significant stakeholder buy-in and ownership.

Preoccupation with Failure

The team briefed at every level with absolute transparency. Any line of effort identified as falling behind was immediately addressed with a mitigation strategy and a tangible due date.

Constancy of Purpose

The most impactful part of this endeavor was thousands of Navy Medicine civilian and active duty personnel being centered around the same purpose.

This effort focused and highlighted a clear vision and purpose for the enterprise.

Applying these HRO principles allowed the NMOD TG to have clear momentum, to embrace and to learn from failure, to use subject matter expertise at every level, to establish a clear vision of what was needed to be accomplished, and to know when to meet and clear objectives.

Results

The FY23 Campaign Order resulted in a 94% completion rate for over 360 tasks and interdependencies. It established training pipelines aligned to the Fleet, manpower plans for the entire Force, as well as programming to support the entire expeditionary medical force. This approach has been briefed to the CNO, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the U.S. Fleet Forces Commander, and the Pacific Fleet Commander. The FY24 Campaign Order is well on its way and is following the process implemented by LCDR Welkie.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

FINAL EVENTS OF PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 24-1

Palau—Pacific Partnership One Health Conference



Koror, Republic of Palau. Participants from Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services, Palau Division of Environmental Health, Palau Ministry of Agriculture, Palau Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) NGO gather at the completion of the Pacific Partnership One Health Conference on 3 January 2024. Pictured left (L-R): SGT Aurora Hori-ta, Veterinarian Tech; LT Westen Archibald, Entomology; MAJ Whitney Waldsmith, Veterinary Medicine; CPT Jeffery Helfrich, Veterinary Medicine; LTJG Shae Thomson, EHO; and LCDR Dan Krauth, Medical Corps.

As part of Pacific Partnership 24-1, the Palau-Pacific Partnership One Health Conference was held over three days in early January 2024 in Koror, Republic of Palau, and was organized by LTJG Ellen "Shae" Thomson, EHO, in coordination with the Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services. The conference aimed to improve knowledge and understanding of One Health, to discuss solutions to Palau-specific public health threats using a One Health framework, and to promote dialogue and collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and U.S. partners on surveillance and response to emerging zoonotic disease threats.

Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services departments, Navy Medicine subject matter experts, Army veterinarians, Hawaii State Department of Health and State Lab, Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA), and local NGOs presented on zoonotic and vector-borne disease topics. The conference concluded with all 60 attendees participating in a zoonotic disease priority workshop and outbreak exercise. The One Health conference was an impactful Public Health capacity-building event between the U.S. military and the Republic of Palau. State agencies and NGOs took on the task of maintaining regular contact to manage zoonotic and vector-borne diseases in Palau.

Pest Management and Pesticide Application Course (PMPAC)



Koror, Republic of Palau. Pictured above: LT Westen Archibald, Entomology, teaches the Palau Division of Environmental Health how to properly wear a respirator.

PMPAC was a four-day course developed by LT Westen Archibald, Entomology, to train host nation personnel on the concepts and practice of pest management and pesticide application during the beginning of January 2024. The purpose of the course was threefold:

- Prepare host nation personnel to respond to and to prevent zoonotic and vector-borne disease outbreaks.
- Enhance environmental and personnel safety through safe pesticide storage, use, and spill prevention.
- Teach participants a sufficient standard to pass the host nation's pesticide applicator test.

Seventeen students from four government agencies completed the course in the Republic of Palau, and 15 students from three agencies completed the course in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured above: LT Westen Archibald, Entomology, explains rodent infestation prevention strategies during pest abatement training at Bible Baptist Church in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia on 11 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Celia Martin)

Do-It-Yourself Rat Trap Classes

LT Nicholas Lamal, EHO, developed the Do-It-Yourself Rat Trap class as a train-the-trainer course to empower host nationals to control rodent infestations around their homes, businesses, and communities. Host Nation participants constructed rodent traps from recycled materials that can be found or purchased cheaply on the Pacific Island. Fifty-four attendees from restaurants, sanitation departments, and health departments participated in classes held in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, and Pohnpei, Republic of Marshall Islands. This class aimed to improve island-wide Health and sanitation by reducing rodent populations in public places.



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured above (L-R): LT Nickolas Lamal, EHO, and LTJG Ellen "Shae" Thomson, EHO, announce the winners of free rolling can rat traps during pest abatement training at Bible Baptist Church in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, on 11 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Celia Martin)



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured above (L-R): LT Nickolas Lamal, EHO, constructs a rolling can rat trap as a local translator interprets the steps during a pest abatement training at Bible Baptist Church on 11 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Celia Martin)

Optometry Community Health Engagements



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured left: CDR Mary Beth Linnell, Optometry, assesses a local patient's vision during a community health engagement at the Chuuk Health Clinic in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, on 11 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Justin Ontiveros)



Fefan, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured left: LT Trey Ketchum, Optometry, sorts prescription glasses during a community health engagement on 12 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Gavin Arnoldhendershot)



Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Pictured left: (L-R): CDR Mary Beth Linnell, Optometry, and CAPT Jeffrey Feinberg, commanding officer of the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), speak with a local medical professional at Chuuk Community Health Clinic in Chuuk on 11 January 2024 as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Justin Ontiveros)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

THE HUNT FOR INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES

By: LT Nicholas Johnston, Entomology, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pictured above (R-L): LT Thomas McGlynn, an entomologist with the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, and Army CPT Mark Kartzinel of the Army Public Health Command East, select sites for ovicup mosquito surveillance, a form of surveillance where a container of water is used to collect eggs from mosquitoes, on 14 January 2024. The collection is to search for mosquitos which could possibly be carriers of Yellow Fever and could affect the operational readiness of personnel stationed in that area. (U.S. Navy photo by James Butler, CIV)

LT Thomas McGlynn, a medical entomologist with the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), Jacksonville Fla., traveled to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) in support of Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay Preventive Medicine, Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) and Army Public Health Command, East (APHC-E) to provide mission critical entomological training and to search for the presence of *Aedes vittatus*, a newly introduced mosquito species.

NSGB is the forward, ready, U.S. Sea power platform in the Caribbean that preserves America's strategic influence by maintaining a deep-water naval station, ensuring effective support across military and interagency operations.

In 2019, APHC-E discovered the presence of *Ae. vittatus*, a potential carrier of Yellow Fever, Zika virus and Dengue Fever in NSGB. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, personnel were delayed in returning to study how *Ae. vittatus* was expanding across the base until this year. Adult mosquito surveillance was conducted using Biogents (BG)-Sentinel traps across the installation. During this mission, Army Sgt. Bishop

Calderon of JTF-GTMO successfully identified the first instance of *Ae. vittatus* in the eastern portion of the base, and surveillance identified two more locations where *Ae. vittatus* were multiplying.

Because *Ae. vittatus* is a newly introduced disease-causing insect on the installation, further study will be necessary to assess the potential risk to Service members stationed in there. To reduce risk, LT McGlynn and the joint team conducted entomological training to the preventive medicine teams for both Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay and JTF-GTMO. The focus of the training was to increase the team's ability to capture, to identify, and to prevent mosquitoes from coming into contact with personnel on the installation.

"The teams and personnel that are stationed at NSGB are excellent and working with them during this mission was a joy," said LT McGlynn. "Preventive medicine is a force multiplier, and I am happy that NECE contributes to the critical mission of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay."

NECE delivers force health protection through operational vector surveillance and control to enhance warfighter readiness. NECE also provides operational medical entomology and pest management training to Department of Defense military and civilian personnel.



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pictured above (R-L): LT Thomas McGlynn, an entomologist with the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, trains Army CPT Melissa Work of Army Public Health Command East and her team on insect surveillance on 17 January 2024.

EXPOSURE MONITOR COURSE AT NMCFHPC

During the Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) Exposure Monitor Course/Industrial Hygiene Techniques that was held from 29 January to 9 February 2024 in Norfolk, Va., students along with Course Coordinator/Lead Instructor Mrs. Revonna Sanders and Regional Hearing Conservation Program Manager, LCDR Krystal Rapp, showcased one of the Mobile Hearing Conservation and Testing vehicles. This hands-on experience is a first-time collaboration between NMCFHPC and NMRTC Portsmouth's Occupational Audiology Department, allowing students an opportunity to certify audiometric booths.



Norfolk, Va. Pictured left (L-R) in uniform: Active Duty students attending the NMCFHPC Exposure Monitor Course/Industrial Hygiene Techniques, include HM2 Abokar Mohamed, NEMPU 6; LCDR Krystal Rapp, Occupational Audiology; and LT Emma Rary, Occupational Health Specialist, USCG HSWL-HC.

Norfolk, Va. Pictured right (L-R) in uniform: LT Dillon Luna, Industrial Hygiene, and LCDR Krystal Rapp, Occupational Audiology, stand in front of a Mobile Hearing Conservation and Testing vehicle during the Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC) Exposure Monitor Course/Industrial Hygiene Techniques.



MSCs IN FOCUS



San Diego, Calif. Pictured above: U.S. Navy, NASA, and Canadian Space Agency medical teams come together on board the USS SAN DIEGO (LPD 22) during Underway Recover Test 11 in support of NASA's Artemis II mission on 26 February 2024. The medical teams specifically represent NASA Artemis II Astronauts & Crew Surgeons; Canadian Space Agency Artemis II Astronauts & Crew Surgeon; DoD Human Space Flight Support Program/1st Air Force Detachment 3; USS SAN DIEGO; Commander, THIRD Fleet Surgeon Office; Fleet Surgical Team THREE "Black Sheep;" Surface Medical Group Pacific Detachment THREE; U.S. Northern Command Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System; 1st Medical Battalion En Route Care System; Navy Expeditionary Medical Training Institute; Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23 "Wildcards;" Space Command Medical Representative; and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Unit 1. Additionally, the following MSC officers participated: LT Keith Mahannah, HCA/FST-3 Medical Regulating and Control Officer; LTJG Xin Du, PA/NORTHCOM ERSS; and LCDR Jessica Atterbury (not pictured), POMI/Commander, THIRD Fleet Deputy Surgeon/Medical Planner.



Athens, Greece. Medical Service Corps officers assigned to NAVCENT/5th Fleet and NATO discuss ongoing maritime medical planning efforts. Pictured above (L-R): CDR Hyrum Brossard, POMI/NATO MARCOM Medical Plans Branch Head; CDR Meg Potter, POMI/NAVCENT/5th Fleet Deputy Surgeon; and LCDR Megan Hinton, POMI/NATO International Military Staff Medical Advisor.



Silver Spring, Md. Pictured above (L-R): LCDR Sarah Jenkins, a Microbiologist assigned to Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC), briefs Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez on NMRC's infectious disease research capabilities during an official visit on 28 February 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Tommy Lamkin/Released)




Camp Lejeune, N.C. Members of Class 21-3 pose for a photo after their graduation at Marston Pavilion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune on 1 March 2024. The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) is a 29-month graduate studies program which culminates in the award of a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree as well as a commission into the Medical Service Corps as a Lieutenant Junior Grade. Pictured above (L-R): LTJG Brett Boland; LTJG Joshua Bohac; LTJG Jon French; CDR David Bennett, IPAP site clinical coordinator; LTJG Stephen Wescott; LTJG Dustin Jones; LTJG Kristyn Rhode; LTJG Eric Weber; and LTJG Brandon Elrod. (U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Woods)




Camp Lejeune, N.C. Pictured above: Members of Class 21-3 say the officer's oath during the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) commissioning at Marston Pavilion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune on 1 March 2024. (U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Woods)


MSCs IN FOCUS



37TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY
 January 9-13, 2024
 Signin by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
 Orlando, Florida
 #EAST2024

1 Slide
 Friday, January 12
 8:15 AM - 8:30 AM

Session: Scientific Session VI (Papers 33-40)
Paper 33 - DOES WHOLE BLOOD RESUSCITATION INCREASE RISK FOR VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM IN TRAUMA PATIENTS? A COMPARISON OF COMPONENT THERAPY VS WHOLE BLOOD IN 3468 PATIENTS


 Presenter:
 Brittany Hout, PA-C


 Discussant:
 Andrew Fisher, MD


 Handout



Orlando, Fla. Pictured above: On 12 January 2024, LCDR Brittany Hout, Doctor of Science in Physician Assistant Studies-General Surgery (DSc PAS-General Surgery), delivered a podium presentation at the 37th Annual Scientific Assembly of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. Her presentation titled "Does Whole Blood Resuscitation Increase Risk For Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) in Trauma Patients? A Comparison of Component Therapy vs Whole Blood in 3468 Patients," was produced during the completion of the Academic Year 2022-2023 Long Term Health Education and Training DSc PAS-General Surgery training program. This was a multicenter retrospective cohort study from January 2016 to December 2021 with a primary outcome of VTE incidence, concluding with strong evidence that reducing VTE risk in severely injured trauma patients is yet another benefit of early resuscitation with whole blood. The military relevance of her work is far reaching and is expected to drive change within the prolonged field care and surgical resuscitative domains. LCDR Hout reports that the DSc program directly prepared her to present on the national stage and lent to her overall success for this project. Course emphasis on the ability to effectively communicate her ideas along with complex information to varied audiences is noted as a key component to ongoing success. It is recommended that the emphasis of these learning skills be prioritized to include funding support for continued opportunities to present at national professional venues.



Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Pictured left: CAPT Franca R. Jones, Microbiology/Commander of Naval Medical Research Command (NMRC), held an NMRC Enterprise All Hands at the Military and Family Readiness Center during her visit to Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) San Antonio on 8 February 2024. CAPT Jones spoke on numerous topics including the National Defense Authorization Act, the recent Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, and the research and development relationship with the Defense Health Agency. NAMRU San Antonio's mission is to conduct gap driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness, and safety of Department of Defense personnel engaged in routine and expeditionary operations. The Naval Medical Research and Development (NMR&D) enterprise is comprised of eight commands with more than 1,330 Navy Medicine personnel. (U.S. Navy Photo by Burrell Parmer, Naval Medical Forces Support Command Public Affairs/Released)



Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. Pictured left: LT Jacob Westerberg, research psychologist for the Robert E. Mitchell Center (REMC) RPOW studies, peaks over a log on 11 January 2024 while re-enacting scenes from his training and describes his professional take on psychological experiences faced by those having to endure real-life survival scenarios like those taught in the survive evade resist and escape (SERE) training. The Robert E. Mitchell Center houses the POW research studies program for all branches the armed forces and has been an active program for 50 years as of 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Russell Lindsey SW/AW)

San Diego, Calif. Pictured right (L-R): LCDR Jed Lynn, Biochemistry/Department Head of Operations with Navy Environment Preventive Medicine Unit Five (NEPMU-5), highlights the unique capabilities and scalability of the Forward Deployable Preventative Medicine Unit teams for Ms. Lisa Truesdale, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (Military Manpower and Personnel) and assistant secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) during her visit, on 14 February 2024. During her visit, Ms. Truesdale met with command staff and subject matter experts to highlight the functions and capabilities NEPMU-5 provides in support of the expeditionary mission, the fleet, and the forward-deployed warfighter.



MSCs IN FOCUS



Cherry Point, N.C. Pictured left: LT Tess Bierl, Physician Assistant, receives the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during an awards ceremony conducted 28 February 2024 aboard Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point. LT Bierl served aboard the clinic's Patient Centered Medical Home Port and Occupational Health departments. (U.S. Navy photo by Mr. Thomas Cieslak)

Portsmouth, Va. Pictured right (L-R) CDR Scott Hazelrigg, HCA/Deputy Chief of Staff for manpower and personnel assigned to Naval Medical Forces Atlantic (NMFL), delivers the oath of office to LTJG Sarah Stalsworth, HCA and division officer for force medical readiness assigned to NMFL, during a promotion ceremony on board Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hampton Roads-Portsmouth Annex on 1 March 2024. LTJG Stalsworth has served in the Navy for eight years as both an enlisted hospital corpsman and as a commissioned officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levi Decker)



San Diego, Calif. Pictured left: LT Melvin Rolon, PAD/Medical Administration Officer assigned to USS BOXER (LDH 4), gives a tour of the ship's medical spaces to superintendents from Pennsylvania schools on 16 February 2024. USS BOXER (LDH 4) is a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. (Photo by Mass Communications Specialist Seaman Normand Basque)

POMI: SPECIALTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT CAPTIONS



USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20). POMI Officers are embarked on the Command and Control ship USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20) supporting ongoing operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Pictured left (L-R): LT Valerie Arnsparger, 6th Fleet POMI; CMDCM Medea Dudley, Command Master Chief, 6th Fleet; LCDR Ebonee Williams, 2d Marine Division POMI; VADM Thomas Ishee, Commander, 6th Fleet; CAPT Beth Skorey, 6th Fleet Deputy Surgeon/POMI; Maj Gen Calvin Worth, Commander, 2d Marine Division; LCDR Dawn Whiting, 6th Fleet EHO/POMI; and LT Eric Manuel, 6th Fleet POMI.



Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Navy Plans Operations and Medical Intelligence professionals are seen participating in the USNORTHCOM-led planning event to develop the Command, Control, and Coordination (C3) Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the Integrated CONUS Medical Operations Plan (ICMOP) at the Joint Inter-Agency Operations Complex. Pictured left (L-R): CDR Sergio Coronel, POMI/HCA; CDR Nicole Dutton, POMI/HCA; CDR Christopher Lingard, POMI/HCA; Mr. Roy Jefferson-Hampton, EM Specialist; LCDR Wisdom Henry, POMI/HCA; LCDR Nancy Luna, POMI/HCA; and CDR Pam Klepac-Tulensru, POMI/HCA.



Bonifacio Naval Station, Metro Manila, Philippines. Medical planners from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Naval Medical Forces Pacific, Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and I Marine Expeditionary Force conduct an office call with Chief Surgeon, Philippine Navy (PN) during Exercise Balikatan 2024 Final Planning Conference. Pictured left (L-R): LCDR Paul Richard Tan, POMI; HMCS Jam Columna; LT Robert Campbell, HCA; LCDR Daniel Lund, POMI; CAPT Dino Flores, PN Chief Surgeon; CDR Noah Apusen, POMI; LCDR Roslyn Johnson, POMI; Mr. Randy Dee, POMI; CDR (Ret.) LCDR Patrick McGuire, POMI; and LCDR Joemar Fernandez, PN.



Naples, Italy. Medical Planners are seen supporting Austere Challenge in March 2024. Pictured left (L-R): LTJG Mary Anderson, HCA; LCDR Richelle Magalhaes, POMI; LT Valerie Arnsparger, POMI; LT Eric Eberspeaker, POMI; and CDR Gene Osborn, POMI. Not pictured but supporting Austere Challenge as POMIs: CAPT Beth Skorey, LCDR Gabe Rocha, LCDR Jason Fuchs, LCDR Heather Hendrix-Holmes, and LT Eric Manuel.

IN MEMORIAM



CAPT (Ret.) Trevor Jones

Microbiology

7 September 1951 – 21 January 2024

Submitted by: CAPT (Ret.) J. Kevin Baird & CAPT (Ret.) Stephen Hoffman



Dr. Trevor R. Jones, CAPT MSC USN (Ret.) died suddenly at his home in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 January 2024 after a long illness. He was the son of Dr. James F. and Anne S. Jones of Danielson, Conn., and was born in Putnam, Conn., on 7 September 1951. He graduated from Killingly High School in 1969, Connecticut College in 1973, and earned a doctorate in microbiology from Duke University in 1981. His doctoral dissertation researched markers in brain and nervous system tumors. He then went on to a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University.

Dr. Jones received a direct commission as LT, MSC, USNR in 1984 and reported for duty at the Naval Dental Research Institute at Great Lakes, Ill. In 1987, LT Jones reported for duty at the US Naval Medical Research Unit No.2, Jakarta Detachment, in Indonesia. In 1988, he and Shirley Rae Harmon, also an MSC officer, were married. LCDR Jones went on in 1989 to serve as a scientist and executive officer in the Malaria Program at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI) at Bethesda, Md., working on malaria vaccine development, and concomitantly received a Master in Public Health (MPH) from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences with a thesis focusing on sickle cell anemia and malaria.

In 1995 CDR Jones returned to the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No.2 (NAMRU-2) in Jakarta as Executive Officer. During 1997 CDR Jones returned to NMRI because of his beloved wife Shirley needing medical care. He was devoted to Shirley during her struggle with cancer and worked to find her the best and most advanced medical care. After her passing in 2003, he lovingly dedicated himself to raising his daughter Sarah with unwavering support. In that year, CAPT Jones and his daughter returned to NAMRU-2 in Indonesia, initially as Executive Officer (2003-2007) and then as Commanding Officer of NAMRU-2. In 2010 CAPT Jones oversaw the transfer of NAMRU-2 from Indonesia to new stations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He returned to NMRI in that year and re-

tired from active duty in 2011, then relocating to Jakarta as a retiree.

His family and distinguished U.S. Naval service were the proud centerpieces of his rich personal and professional life. However, he had many other interests and accomplishments. During his career in the Navy, he was one of the most highly ranked pistol shooters in the Navy and nationally ranked; he traveled around the U.S. participating in competitions. He was also an avid motorcyclist and Harley owner, who biked with his father and friends in the U.S., Canada, and Indonesia.

CAPT Jones was a respected scientist who had numerous scientific publications, including 44 scientific publications on many aspects of malaria, and a leader within his U.S. Navy community. He was adored for his extraordinary good humor, wit, and consideration of the welfare of others, those near to him as well as strangers. In 2010, CAPT Jones was ordered by the U.S. Navy to close NAMRU-2 in Jakarta after a 45-year presence and to dismiss its 200 Indonesian staff. These same people would become CAPT Jones' beloved friends and caretakers throughout his final years. He had earned their love and respect by visibly suffering in executing those orders and doing his utmost to ease the pain it caused them. The ex-NAMRU-2 family gathered in force at his memorial service and cremation in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Jakarta, Indonesia. Pictured above: Many of CAPT (Ret.) Trevor Jones' friends and colleagues gather to bid him farewell with love and respect shortly after he passed away. (Photo credit: Lenny Ekawati)

He is survived by his daughter Sarah R. Jones (Jennifer) of Franklin, Mass.; his sisters, Dr. Susan R. Jones (Anthony Bruno) of East Lyme, Conn., and Gwyneth J. Neuss (Michael) of Philadelphia, Pa.; several nieces and nephews; his caretaker, Pak Widodo, and many dozens of friends, former shipmates, and the NAMRU-2 family of former Indonesian national staff who still adore their last commanding officer. Interment will be in Maryland at a later date.



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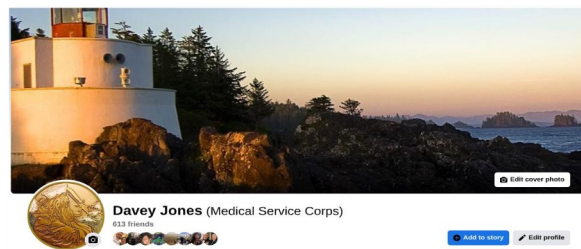
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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most diverse Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC Officers that serve at Military Treatment Facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.



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